

MOD-83-0000284-A

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The Right Honourable Geoffrey Hoon MP
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cc: [redacted] The Treasury Solicitor

7 July 2004

Your ref:
Our ref: NC/PS/Iraq Personal Injury

LETTER OF CLAIM

Dear Sir,

Re: Death/Injury of Iraqi civilians due to acts of UK occupying forces

1. We are instructed (at this stage) by 30 Iraqi clients who have either lost relatives or suffered injury as a result of acts of UK occupying forces. All incidents causing death or injury occurred in Basra, which is controlled by UK Armed Forces. The 30 cases in paragraph 4 below set out further details.
2. We anticipate that we shall be instructed by other clients who have also either lost relatives or suffered injuries in similar circumstances.
3. This is a Letter of Claim for the purposes of the Pre-action Protocol for Personal Injury Claims.

FACTS

4. The 30 cases on which we have so far received instructions all occurred in or around Basra, South East Iraq and are as follows:

Case 1: [redacted]

C.4.11432 ✓

PIL/
AMN

[Large redacted area]

PIC Case 2: Muhammad Abdul Ridha Salim (Deceased)

6 NOV 03 ?

(2) On 5 November 2003 Mr Salim who was aged 45, was at his brother-in-law's house in Basra at approximately 2330. British soldiers forced entry into the house by breaking down the front door and one soldier fired a rifle with a silencer into Mr Salim's stomach. Mr Salim died in hospital on 7 November 2003 as a result of the injuries suffered. A letter of Major S J Routledge of 9 November 2003 (enclosed) confirms that the British forces had entered the property by mistake.

(3) Mr Salim was a teacher and married to Fatima Zabun Dahesh.

PIC Case 3: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PIC Case 4: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PIC Case 5: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Plu

Case 6: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Plu

Case 7: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Plu

Case 8: [REDACTED] ✓

[REDACTED]

Plu

Case 9: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

PIL

Case 10: [Redacted] ✓

[Redacted]

PIL

Case 11: [Redacted] ✓

[Redacted]

PIL

Case 12: [Redacted] ✓

[Redacted]

Case 13: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Case 14:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Case 15:

[Redacted]

✓

[Redacted]

Case 16:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Case 17:

[Redacted]

PLAN

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

Case 18: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Case 19: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Case 20: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NOT ON PHL
list but PHL
ANGLER

Case 21:

[REDACTED]

64.11437? AMN

[REDACTED]

Case 22:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Case 23:

[REDACTED]

4 11433

Case 24:

Case 25:

Case 26:

Case 27:

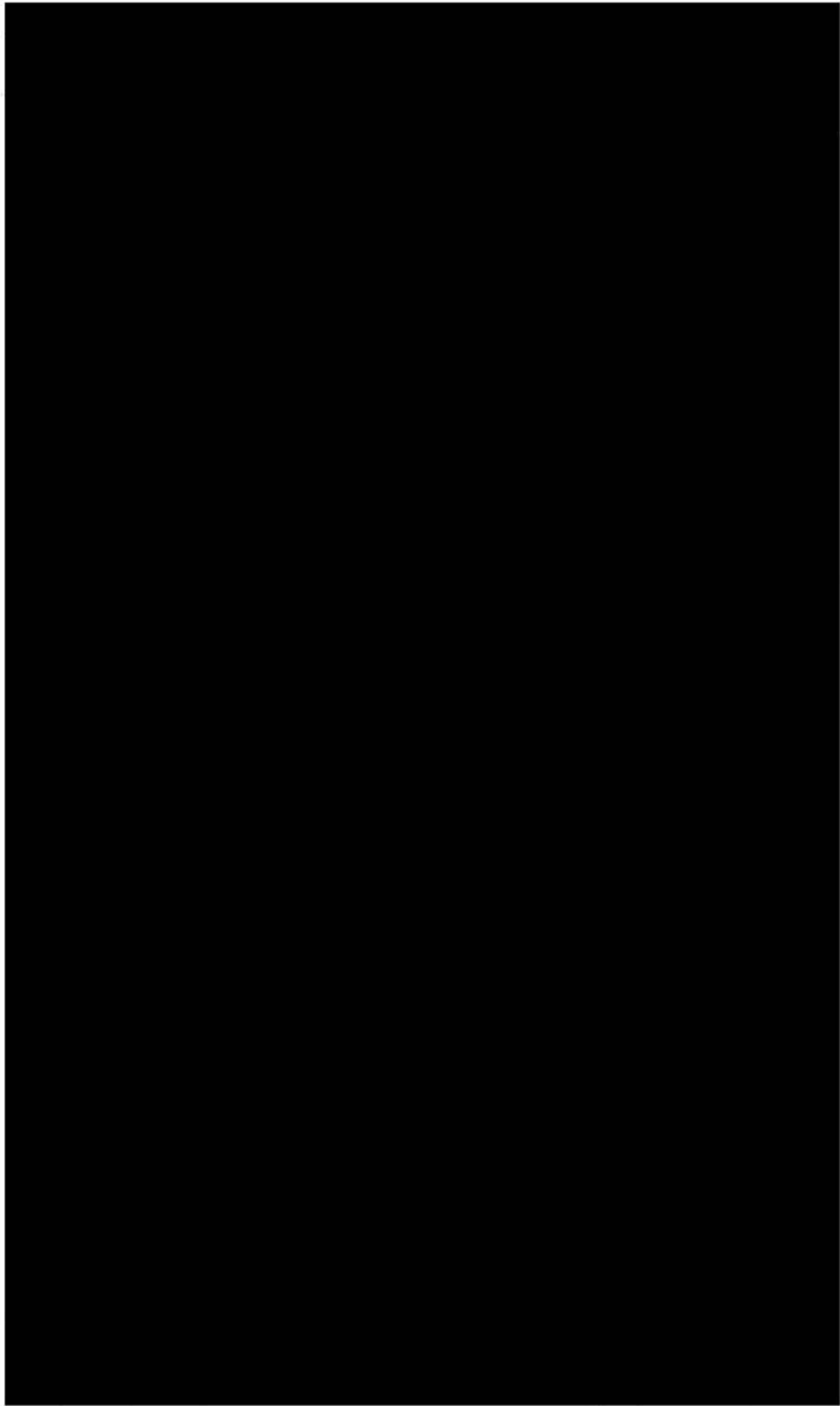
Case 28:

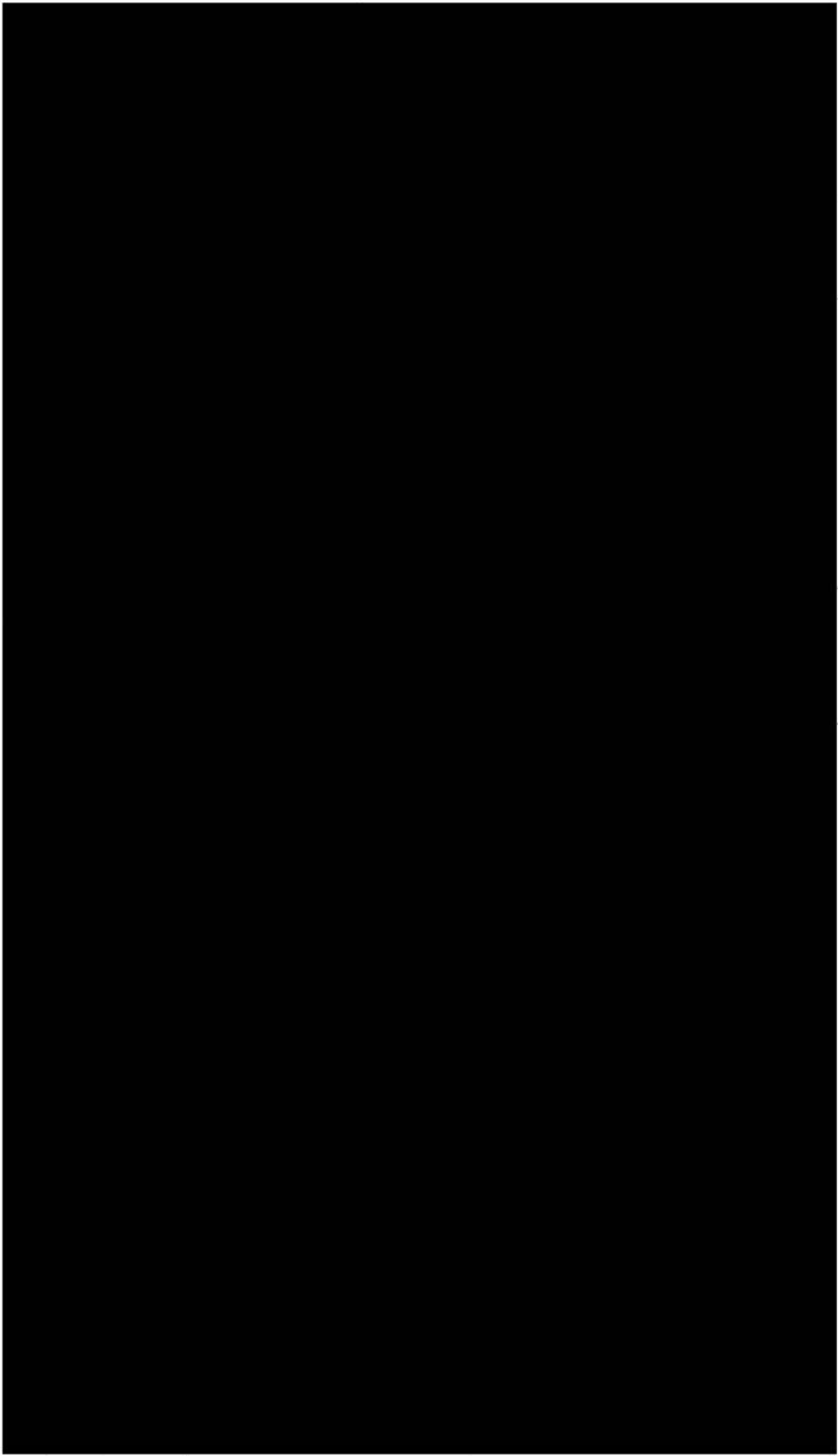
Case 29:

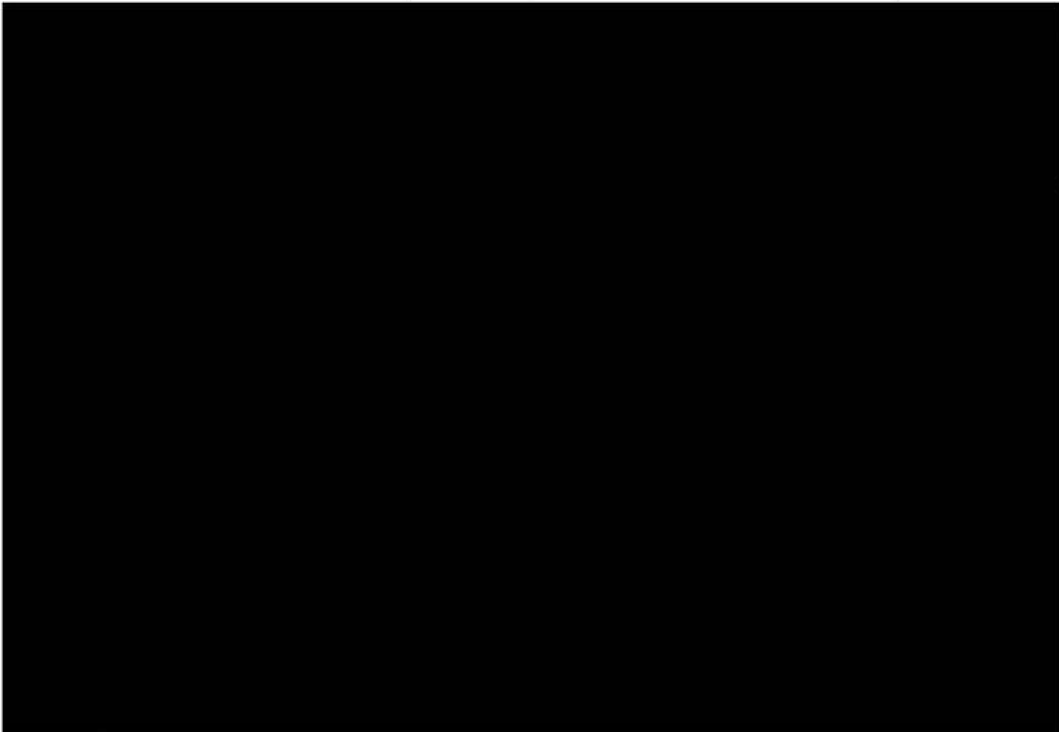
[REDACTED]

ri

[REDACTED]







Case 30:

64-1145



CAUSE OF ACTION

5. It is alleged that UK troops were:
 - a) Negligent and/or,
 - b) Intentionally or recklessly committed acts which amounted to unlawful force and the tort of battery,causing death or injury to Iraqi civilians in the above cases.

6. We request that you accept liability and agree to pay damages by way of "just satisfaction" to our clients. We will of course provide further details in support of our clients' losses in due course.

PRE-ACTION PROTOCOL

7. We appreciate that paragraph 3.8 of the Pre-Action Protocol states that where the accident occurred outside England and Wales and/or where the defendant is outside the jurisdiction, the time period to respond is normally extended up to six months (from the usual three months). However, the Pre-Action

Protocol for Personal Injury claims is primarily designed for cases with a value less than £15,000 which are likely to be allocated to the fast track (paragraph 2.3) and the timetable and arrangements may need to be varied to suit the circumstances of the case. We of course intend to act in accordance with the spirit of the Protocol but considering this will be a case with a value in excess of £15,000 and in light of the fact that none of the deaths have been acknowledged in these cases, the concern in relation to preservation of evidence and the current security situation in Iraq, we request that the usual three month period for responding to a Letter of Claim should apply, and that the period should not be extended to up to six months. We refer you to paragraph 2.5 which provides that where one or both parties consider the detail of the protocol is not appropriate to the case, and proceedings are subsequently issued, the court will expect an explanation as to why the protocol has been varied. We consider this is a case where the court would consider that six months to respond to this Letter of Claim would not be appropriate. We therefore put you on notice that if a response is not received within 3 months, we will consider whether it is appropriate to issue proceedings at that stage.

8. We look forward to receiving an acknowledgment of this letter within 21 days.

Yours faithfully

Public Interest Lawyers

Public Interest Lawyers

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